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CENTER LINE

MONTANA'S HIGHWAYS

Published bi-monthly for the employees of
the Montana Highway Commission, state-wide

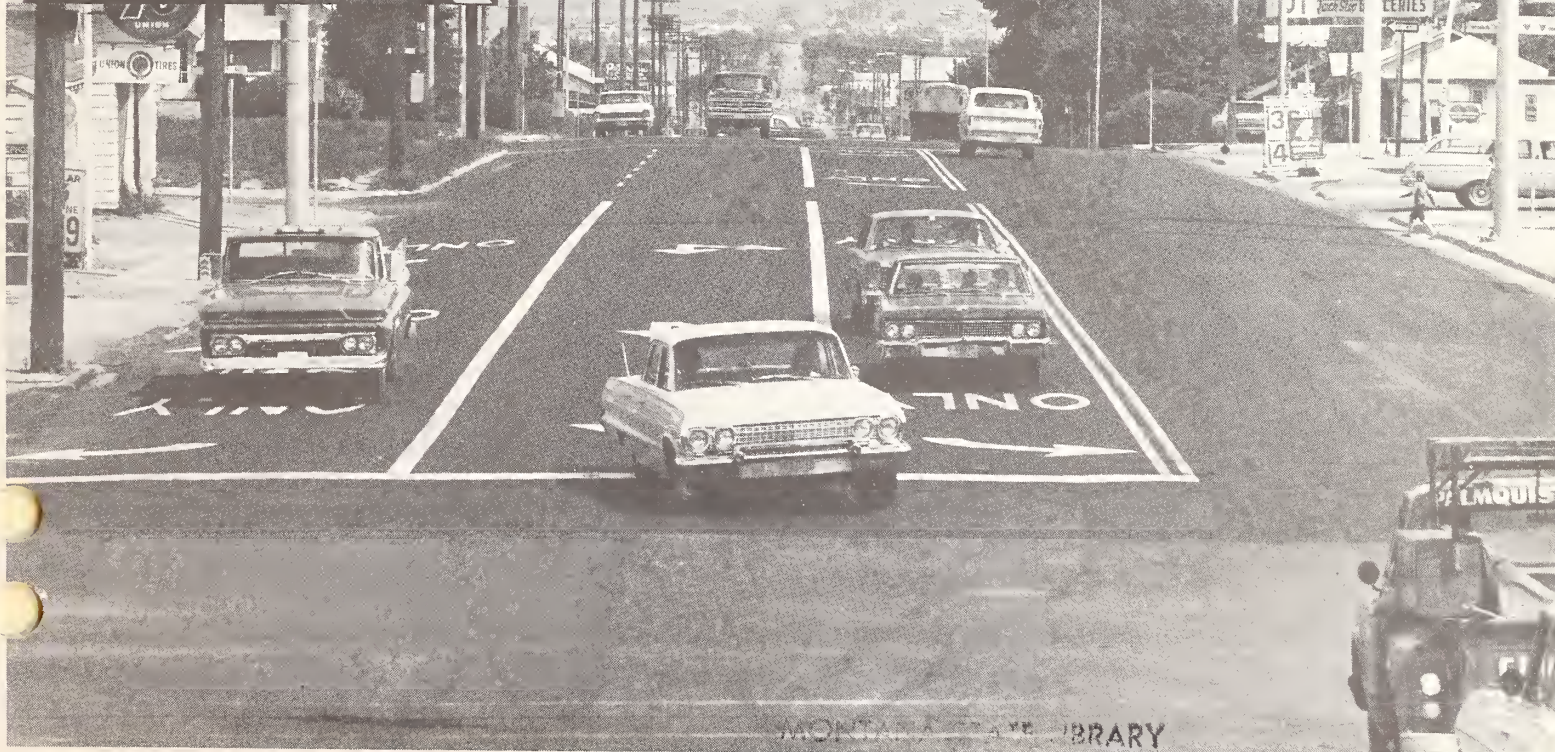
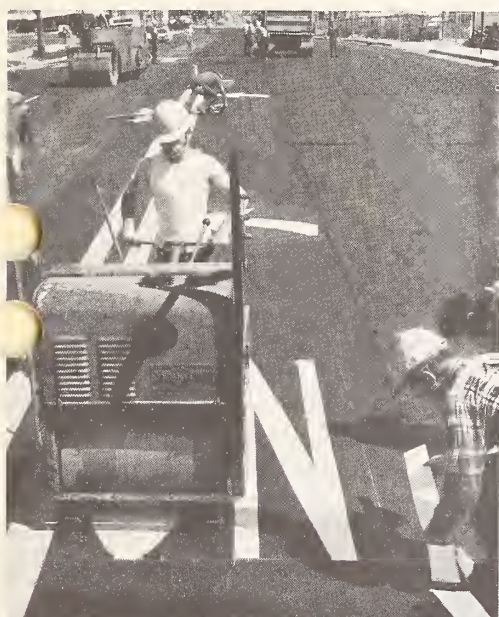
PUBLISHED SINCE JANUARY, 1938

August, 1971

Helena gets stretch of super stick

Montana Avenue in Helena has been newly blacktopped and striped with a new perpetual striping. The striping is a reflectorized thermo-plastic material that is rolled into the new pavement. It is self-cleaning and provides many times more life than paint. The photo, top left, shows the workers applying the new plastic inlay striping. The material

is cut to size, laid in position, and rolled into place. The photo below shows the new traffic flow pattern. Two left turn bays are provided at the intersection of 11th and Montana for faster movement of traffic. Elsewhere on Montana, left-turn storage bays are provided at all intersections.



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Guest editorial

RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENT

By Ed Miller, P.E.

Research Engineer, Montana
State Highway Commission

Roads change the environment more dramatically than might be indicated by viewing black ribbons of asphalt gently winding up mountain grades or stretching out over plateaus where not so many years ago only trails from wild game cut through native grasses. This changed environment is for the most part all the better for the day-to-day living enjoyment of Montana's population.

CENTER LINE MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

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STATE HIGHWAY ENGINEER

Newsletter published by the information office of the Montana Highway Commission, Helena, Montana, 59601. Designed for highway personnel as a state-wide medium of information. All material in this publication may be reprinted without special permission.

Division Correspondents

Billings	James Young
Bozeman	Barbara McGuire
Butte	Judy Combo
Glendive	Carole Ritz
Great Falls	Ciel Tinelli
Havre	Edna Hess
Helena	Bey Gibson
Kalispell	Bob Finley
Lewistown	Bea Knerr
Miles City	Jean Sweeney
Missoula	Clara Neely
Wolf Point	Ollie Hauge

News items of interest to Highway Department employees are invited. They should be given to the correspondents listed above.

But now, the natural things that made life so tough and time consuming begin to take on a different meaning: mountains and valleys, rivers and brooks, trees and flowers are restful to the eye, and man's desire to save the beauty of nature and preserve the remaining wilderness is becoming irresistible.

So, too, engineers have recognized their potential of destroying natural beauty and leaving barren earthen rock and subsoil glaring abrasively against a soft and beautiful landscape. Certainly, ways must be found to retain nature's balance and reduce the eroded eyesores and clear the chocolate waters.

The first environmental research study supported with 80% Federal Highway Administration funds set aside \$168,000 for a five year program to develop the technology required to vegetate steep slopes where the growing environment offered only harsh soils and infrequent rains. Many thought the job impossible and decided money spent for seeding contracts was wasted and, indeed, they were more right than wrong. Today, however, much has changed. Top soil is now saved and re-applied to barren slopes. Fertilizer, found to burn the seed when added to the hydro-seeder, now is applied separately. Stage construction financing allows for additional applications discovered to be so essential to the establishment of growing plants.

Interestingly enough, what was pleasing to the eye also proved safer for the highway traveler. Gentler slopes held the top soil moisture and seed, and at the same time provided a wandering vehicle safer room to roam, until it could be brought back to the constructed traveled-way. Guard rails in many locations were removed; in their place, grass-covered slopes were established. These cost less and offset much of the initial costs of right-of-way.

Through research, widely adaptable species of grasses and shrubs were identified as more suitable for particular roadside conditions. It was known that Western wheatgrass and Kentucky bluegrass were the most frequent of the native Montana range grasses, thus our first seeding projects used ample amounts of seed from each. Research data from inventories found that on older roadway slopes, western wheatgrass was surprisingly missing. Kentucky bluegrass in western Montana, slender wheatgrass and crested wheatgrass in the semi-arid regions of eastern Montana surpassed other species.

Meanwhile, at the Bridger Plant Materials Center of the Soil Conservation Service, new species of wheatgrass with good root systems able to hold soil against erosion and able to withstand arid conditions were being developed. Our researcher, Dick Hodder, consulted with SCS and found that two varieties of wheatgrass, thick-spike and streambank were adaptable and desirable plants for harsh roadsides. Their seed is specified now whenever available. Turf caps, those overhanging masses of vegetation at the tops of banks, are last to be eroded and to a casual observer might be considered an asset in the effort to resist slope deterioration. Our researcher observed that the turf cap actually functions as a waterfall during rains, and hastens the erosion of the exposed bank beneath the overhang. Thus, the well-rounded cut slopes required in construction specifications are beneficial to the rapid stabilization of roadsides.

More recently, our experimentation has led to the planting of native, mature, young trees and shrubs which do require some watering or other attention through an initial establishment period. They then can give instant shade and add beauty to our interchanges and rest areas. Research plantings are at the Pinchill interchange east of Billings. Techniques and machines have been developed to extract and transplant larger trees from nursery stock, but our researchers found it a challenging experience to set a large auger-laden truck on a

Highway Hostess job: high speed turnover

This year, the position of Highway Hostess in Helena headquarters proved to be an interesting one. On the first of June, Miss Nancy Harper, 1971 graduate of Helena Senior High School, joined us and began setting up the lobby display booth for tourist visitors. She was Miss Helena at the time and we knew it, and were proud of her. We agreed,

sloping hill to dig native pines and junipers (with roots entwined around the rocks, or wedged between boulders beneath the surface. The more granular soils fell away as trees were lifted from their moorings and thus, could not be used).

An all-out attack on steep interchange fill slopes, where mowing is impossible and weeds frequently abound, is still another objective of ecological research. Low growing bushes, which protect Montana's rimrock hills, have been propagated in long slender tubes to develop deep roots that can better extend to moisture sources.

A recent Montana State Highway Commission, Federal Highway Administration and Montana Fish and Game Commission research study piloted by Montana State University will evaluate two channel changes designed to better support fish life.

Steve Kologi, MHC engineer and John Peters, F&G biologist, decided to try something new to improve appearance and increase the life-supporting potential of rivers and streams running through man-made channels. Copying nature's sinuous scheme of rivers flowing deep and shallow, languid and swift, these men planned the new channels of the Clark Fork river west of Drummond. Their design sets a meandering course with reversing sloping bottoms to tilt the sparkling water from side to side against steep and rocky banks as it rounds the river bends.

Now after two years of time for nature to replenish insects and other food in the channel, fish population will be counted and compared with populations in similar, but natural reaches of the river. Can man's ingenuity duplicate nature's wondrous ways? The Highway and the Fish & Game are anxious to find out.

therefore, to pitch-in and keep the information booth alive and well while she competed in the Miss Montana pageant at Billings.

Events whizzed by—including our erstwhile hostess.



Nancy

On Saturday night, July 17th, Nancy was crowned Miss Montana in a crowded Billings West-High Auditorium. From that moment on, her life was a changed thing. We, with sufficient artlessness to supply the world's needs, thought she might fit a few engagements into an otherwise busy world of Information Hostess. When Nancy got back on July 30th, we discovered that she now boasted (with awe) a business manager and practically no time to call her own.



Returns



As Miss Montana

Thus, in post-haste, we installed Miss Lisa Conger as Information Hostess who was able to digest precisely in one day-and-a-quarter of focused training the oftentime tough job of directing tourists from here to some obscure spot in this vast Treasure State covered by a vast sky.



Lisa

Lisa, daughter of Ann Conger of Helena, moved to the Capital City from California about five years ago. She graduated from Helena Senior High School in 1970 and attended the University of Montana at Missoula last year. She plans to continue her education there, majoring in one of the social sciences or journalism. She was honored not long ago by being selected as a member of Judge Loble's Juvenile Court Commission.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Lewistown

Bea Knerr

Dennis Herbold was discharged from the Army after a 16-month tour in Germany. He plans to attend a heavy equipment school in the near future. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Herbold, (Swede), who is maintenance supervisor at Stanford.

Fred Ellis performed his American duty in Boise, Idaho, for two weeks with the National Guard. Fred is an engineering aide 2.

Lynn Dale, 6'5" son of Mr. and Mrs. Enes Dale, won a scholarship through his basketball playing with the fifth place Ryegate team in the State Championship last spring. He chose to go to Rocky Mountain College and will be on the State team next season.

Kip Gjerde, son of Harold Gjerde, maintenanceman, exchanged marriage vows with Corrine Magnuson. They will be returning to Bozeman this fall as Kip is a senior in college majoring in engineering and is also a member of the Bobcat's team.

Mrs. Web Rohletter is recovering at home now after a long illness in the hospital at White Sulphur Springs. The ten-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pavlak, maintenanceman, underwent surgery. We wish both of them a speedy recovery.

Ross (Bud) Johnson, resident engineer 1, transferred into the Lewistown division after a two-week stay in the Billings area. His return to our division is welcomed by all of the "Hanzel House Hangerons" (HHH).

Two deaths within a month left our division in shock. Willis Dailey, maintenanceman at Grass Range, died May 28 after a long illness. William Kindt, maintenanceman at Winnett, died after a heart attack on June 6, 1971. Our deepest sympathy goes out to these families.

Our annual highway-union picnic is scheduled for August 22, at the State Fish Hatchery. Bring a potluck lunch and join in the fun.

A bit of color has been added to our front door step by the Green Thumbs in our division. Our front walk seems a little more inviting now that we have two old tires made into planters by Don Butterfield. He cut the tires and painted them to look



like pieces of Mexican pottery; then Don Huber, mechanic, hauled in the black dirt from a spot that was covered with snow from Main Street in Lewistown all winter long. Now with change from the coffee fund, Bea Knerr, radio & teletype operator, purchased petunias and last but not least Pauline Stephens, clerk 2, adds her gentle touch with a bit of water each morning. They say too many hands spoil the broth, but I believe in this case the hands improved it. A colored snapshot would really tell the story—maybe some other division has done something along this line—it would be interesting to hear about.

Women working in the National Forests?—why not? —Lewistown's Iral Ragenovich majored in forestry at Austin, Texas the past winter and is now employed with the Lewis and Clark National Forest Service out of White Sulphur Springs. Nice going, Iral, and congratulations. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ragenovich. Alex is division office engineer 3 in our division.

In the newest program out—the Step Opportunity Program—Lewistown will be hiring Sue Baker to give us a hand in the office.

Also welcomed to our "fold" is Bruce Griffith who will be maintenanceman at Grass Range.



A farewell luncheon was held at the Yogo Inn for Elton Strunk who has been transferred to Wolf Point as division engineer. Fourteen employees attended the luncheon and wished him well in his new venture. Andy Harcharik presented Elton with the farewell gift from the group.

Bea Knerr was installed as Senior Regent of the Women of the Moose by Deputy Supreme Governor John Seally. This is a first of its kind, having a Governor make the installation of new officers for the Women of the Moose. Bea also attended the State convention in Glendive as delegate from Lewistown, along with 21 other delegates and wives.

Wolf Point

Ollie Hauge

Aron King, Gilbert Kinkade, Loran Rummel, and Keith Thorson have just returned from the Bozeman division and are back at the Malta headquarters. They were helping with some preconstruction projects in the Bozeman area. Robert Webb was with them for a time but unfortunately broke his ankle and is confined to the Malta area. George Nelson, their resident engineer and Robert Webb were injured while at a Demolition Derby and George received a broken leg—they were gallantly helping a woman in distress and she ran right over the top of them. Took them a long time to find out you can't trust these women drivers.

Jim Baldwin, resident engineer 2; Ron Ueland, instrumentman; Fredrick Jensen and Ogden Hanson, engineering aide 2's, were transferred to the Billings division and are working in the Red Lodge area.

Nancy Lang has joined our crew in the division office and adds a little color to the drafting tasks. Nancy is a very capable little gal and "draws" a mean curve.

The Wolf Point office has been working short-handed this past two weeks as Don Nedrud has been "vacationing" at Camp Anderson at Helena with the Guard.

We welcome our new construction chief, Elton Strunk, to this northerly part of Montana. Elton has been get-

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ting acquainted with his resident engineers and the new terrain.

Butte

Judy Combo

A no-host retirement dinner was held at Lydia's in Butte on June 26th to honor three men who have retired in the Butte division. These men are Jim Killoy, Cy Cutter and Hub Evenskaas. Jim, who was the office manager in Butte at the time of his retirement, has worked for the highway department since November 8, 1946. He went through the ranks, starting as a truck driver, then clerk, senior clerk, and became the office manager on September 6, 1965. Cy was the stockman at his retirement. He began working for the highway commission on January 24, 1961 as engineering aide I. He then advanced to engineering aide II and finally became maintenanceman and stockman in October, 1966. Hub was first employed September 5, 1967 and was classified as maintenanceman until his retirement on February 8, 1971.

Each man was presented with a savings bond and a fifth of whiskey. A special tribute by telegram was presented to Jim Killoy from his two daughters who live in Washington, D.C., and who were unable to attend the party. And Cy Cutter was honored with the presence of his brother-in-law Karl Guenther who flew in from San Rafael, California, to attend the party. Mr. Evenskaas was unable to attend the dinner due to an illness. We congratulate all three of these men and hope they have many happy years of retirement ahead of them.

Jim Killoy was also honored on June 30th at a luncheon given by the women working in the Butte office. The luncheon was held at the Ponderosa, and much to Jim's surprise, his wife Marg appeared on the scene. So Jim enjoyed a lunch with a total of 10 women, counting himself as the only MALE. Jim wishes everyone to know that he thoroughly enjoyed his date, and hopes whenever anyone else retires they get the ROYAL TREATMENT he did, and to become "KING FOR A DAY." He was crowned on June 30, 1971.

At this time we congratulate Cliff Dean who has taken over duties as the new office manager to replace Jim Killoy. Cliff was a senior clerk before becoming office manager.

Bill Weston, maintenance supervisor at Deer Lodge, also retired effective July 1, 1971. Bill had worked for the highway department since March 2, 1931 giving him a total of 40 years of service to the State. He started as a truck driver and advanced to maintenance sectionman then finally became maintenance supervisor in May, 1956.

And with this we congratulate Harold Billquist who has taken over duties of maintenance supervisor. Harold has worked for the highway commission since May 9, 1938 and we are sure he will make a very capable maintenance supervisor.

Glendive

Carole L. Ritz

Vacation time again in the Glendive division. I just got back from the fun and sun of Minnesota land. During my two weeks absence Margaret Valiton took over my duties. She will be helping us out for the summer. Erma and her husband Fred went to the Yellowstone Park, Jack Rile went to sunny California and Bruce Russell toured Canada. So we are all back in shape for our usual good run of business activities.

We got an unusual surprise one day last week. Bruce and Dick came in and asked us girls—Betty Henke, r/w, Margaret Valiton and myself, if we wanted to go for a ride. Knowing us, we said sure. Anyway, they took us out on the Marsh Road to see a Hot Plant in operation. Sure was an interesting couple of hours for us and proved to be quite educational.

Sympathies were extended to Bob Scherting, reviewing appraiser for R/W, on the passing of his father. Also, to Tony Scherting, as this was his brother.

Russ Evinrude, former employee, passed away at Whitefish on June 15th. He was the brother of Ray Evinrude, mechanic here in Glendive.

Miles City

Jean Sweeney

Don Gatlin, maintenanceman 3, who works with Pat Webster, sectionman at Broadus, has become quite a celebrity in southeastern Montana with his hole-in-one at the Town and Country Club golf course here in Miles City. He earned his tee shot on No. 3 with a six-iron. He will be receiving prizes shortly from the national golfers' organization in recognition of his feat. Gatlin's age was the 19th registered at the Town and Country and he is the second consecutive out-of-town golfer to score the second hole-in-one of the season. Don drives the 80 miles to Miles City quite regularly to golf. Congratulations on your age shot, Don!



Retired shop mechanic, Bryce J. Young and wife just returned home after visiting friends in Lead, South Dakota, and vacationing in the Black Hills with their son and family, Dr. and Mrs. Bryce J. Young and children of LaGrande, Oregon, who had been visiting here in Miles City.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kaze and son Johnny returned to Miles City recently after a two-week trip to Nevada and California. They were accompanied by another son, Bob whom they picked up at Bozeman where he is employed this summer. The family attended the wedding of the eldest son, Jim, in Downey, California, and visited Kaze's relatives in Nevada enroute. Ralph is working shop foreman in the Miles City division shop.

Division Engineer Kenneth G.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Rapp and wife Joann are parents of their third son, born June 8th in a Miles City hospital. He has been named Michael Kenneth and joins two sisters along with his two brothers.

Sympathy is extended to Elmer Gunderson, maintenanceman in the Miles City division, whose wife Hazel passed away June 8th after a lengthy illness.

Robert A. Morgan and his wife Gaylene are parents of their first child, a boy, born in a Miles City hospital June 15th. He has been named Robert Newman and his grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert I. Morgan of Boyes, where Robert I. is sectionman. The new father is an engineering aide II with Claude Taylor's crew and headquartered at Broadus.

Bob Meidinger's wife Johnna received her BS in secondary education in June at Eastern Montana College in Billings. She will be teaching the seventh grade in the Junior High in Miles City. Bob is an engineering aide II working in the Miles City division office with Don McRae, division office engineer III and Arthur D. Anderson, division office engineer I.

Miles City Local No. 243 has completed plans for the annual division picnic which will be held August 8th. Overall chairman is Art Braut, division materials supervisor. This annual affair is held at the Pumping Plant with division employees bringing either a hot dish, salad or dessert. Local No. 243 furnishes the meat and refreshments. The picnic is popular with both adults and youngsters. Various games are played under the leadership of the Games Committee.

Phil Owens, maintenance sectionman at Beaverslide (35 miles south of Miles City) had to take his wife Margy to the University of Minnesota Clinic for a series of tests recently.

Kenneth and Joyce Haughawout attended the graduation of their daughter Cherie from the University of Montana in Missoula June 13. Cherie received her BS degree in elementary education. Ken is office manager in the Miles City division.

There is a really good story going around the Miles City office on the recent fishing trip some of the fel-

lows took and I am not sure it is all "fish". Anyway, Ray Potter, instrumentman, Bud Baker, resident engineer, Ron Myrvik, clerk, and Jerry Branum, instrumentman, went paddle fishing and from all reports they caught some really big paddle fish, in fact, the story is that Ron fell in the "drink" with one that he caught!



Baker

Nancy Lamb, daughter of Bob and Rosie Lamb, has resigned from her position as Churchill County Home Economist at Fallon, Nevada to complete graduate work at the University of Nevada at Reno.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald L. Fiske are the proud parents of a new baby boy born in a Miles City hospital July 16th. He has been named David Duane and has an older brother. Don is a rodman with Del Borer's crew.

Kalispell

—Bob Finley—

The "oiling season" is upon us and soaring thermal recordings have started the sweat rolling off the brows of MHD employees engaged in utilizing the season for half-soling and patching. Old timers like Ernie Johnson at Crystal Creek and Bill Delaney at Polson are ready to make use of this seasonal heat wave.

Other members of the Flathead Tribe are attempting to escape sunstroke by taking vacations, either weekenders or prolongers. John Kallien from our lab and his marital partner are de-mothing their parkas for sojourn to the land of the midnight sun, Alaska. Cake and ice cream was the menu of the day at the division office on July 9 for Al Lang and wife who left that evening for a much-awaited trip to Germany. The Langs' have a son and daughter-



Mary Ellen

in-law stationed there.

The division office is now ornamented with a petite charmer, Mary Ellen Connelly, who stepped in to assist after Marvel Nichol was injured in an auto accident. Marvel is coming along well and hopes to be back at work August 2, after a 10 week vacation. . . ?

A hearty handshake and kiss of congratulations on both cheeks are due Gene Piedalue who is now an instrumentman. Jim Lauckner, Pete Vaughan, Gene Simpson and Bob Bristol have risen from "Second Aiders" to rodmen. Welcome is extended to Ray Jacobson who joined the division from Helena Headquarters. On a man-for-man exchange Ken Davis shipped east to Havre and Jack Hunt shipped west to Kalispell.

Much could be written about the gigantic retirement party for Hap Croskrey and Bob Gibson. The list of "dignitaries" would be too numerous to list and take the word of the tribe scribe—it was Grrrreat!

The local Sod Busters are out replacing divots in our local greenery in preparation of the First Annual Western Highway Golf Tournament to be held at Polson on August 7 and 8. Hope to see many of you there, and again August 14 and 15 in Billings.

So to the vacationers . . . Bon Voyage . . . to the newcomers . . . Bon Soir . . . to the ones that are ill or recovering . . . Bon Chance . . . to those who are sweltering in the heat . . . Bon Noel and to all a good night.

★ ★ ★

The free enterprise system is always coming up with new ways to make money. For instance, in New York there's a new type of barroom. It has free beers and pay washrooms!

Helena people attend financial meet

A jointly-sponsored State and Federal Highway Administration financial management conference was held August 3-4 in West Yellowstone with several Montana Highway Commission personnel present.

Other states represented were Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer, welcomed the delegates. John L. Prebil, chief accountant, was morning session chairman August 4th, and Charles Tode, assistant chief accountant, was in charge of the states' meeting.

Also present were Les Simkins, budget analyst; Lou Clift, internal review; Howard Buswell, assistant state highway engineer-administration; and Mary Burnham, secretary.

Montana representatives from the FHWA included Doug Davis, Richard Jackson, Dick Muffick, and Harold Stewart.



Lewis M. Chittim, state highway engineer, left, and L. S. Casazza, Washington, D. C., listen to Harold Stewart, division engineer, FHWA.

QUESTIONNAIRE (Cities and Towns of Montana) Can you guess the place names?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mighty forest | 14. A movie and a part of your foot |
| 2. What father said to his daughters suitor | 15. A big thrill on a stock ranch |
| 3. City limits | 16. Table silver triplets |
| 4. Big moment in the lives of Humpty Dumpty and Jack and Jill | 17. A boys name and a water sport |
| 5. The best yet | 18. Part of a fence and one's child |
| 6. Bald Mountain | 19. The wash pan |
| 7. Behind him lay the Gray Azores | 20. Covering for seed and an insect |
| 8. A window pane and to advance | 21. Lots of timber |
| 9. City of distance | 22. South American snake |
| 10. An article of Indian clothing | 23. Soldier's quarters |
| 11. Big rock | 24. Local animal noted for its swiftness |
| 12. Tip of a wild animal's nose | 25. Warm wind |
| 13. Alive and to make unconscious | 26. Where bats abide |

ANSWERS: 1. Big Timber, 2. Havre, 3. Townsend, 4. Great Falls, 5. Superior, 6. Butte, 7. Columbus, 8. Glasgow, 9. Miles City, 10. Moccasin, 11. Boulder, 12. Wolf Point, 13. Livingston, 14. Choteau, 15. Roundup, 16. Three Forks, 17. Glendive, 18. Polson, 19. Basin, 20. Shelby, 21. Plentywood, 22. Anaconda, 23. Garrison, 24. Antelope, 25. Chinook and 26. Belfry.

Glendive district Newsletter—circa 1967

Florida photog may adopt the Big Sky country

Tom Dewberry, photographer from Lakeland, Florida wrote to us early in March and said:

"If you have ever been to smog-filled, oil-slicked Florida when we are heavy with purple-bloused, yellow-shorted tourist birds, then you understand my problem.

"We are leaving (wife, camera and me) for some place to park an 18-foot heavily-mortgaged trailer where the nearest neighbor cannot be reached by an air mail stamp. At present, we have an Ohio red-necked early twittering bird 2 feet from our right side and a ghastly Indiana pair 14 inches away, to the left—late nesting mid-west corn swallows!

"Anyway, with the bank's permission, we'd like to breathe some air not polluted by orange grove smog pots! Please send maps, charts—and encouragement."

Done . . . in that order.

★ ★ ★

Father, looking over report card, to small son: "One thing in your favor—with these grades, you couldn't possibly be cheating."

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Great Falls

Ciel Tinelli

The month of June was a busy one for our Great Falls office in that we lost four faithful employees to retirements and transfers. Clinton A. "Bud" McGiffin, construction engineer, retired after serving 40 years with the department and he and Betty were honored at a buffet picnic-style dinner held at the Fairgrounds. They are going to make their home in Polson, where we are sure they will be spending most of their time on the golf greens and fishing on the lake. Replacing Bud will be Richard W. Freeman, who transferred from the position of division construction engineer in Havre. He and Martha are living at 4716 Diana Drive.

George N. Sanderson, Cascade maintenanceman 5, retired after 34 years to his credit and Ellery Sorenson, maintenanceman 5 Great Falls, after serving 21 years. They were both honored with a coffee and cake hour held here in the division office. Their plans are indefinite, just to enjoy life as it comes along.



Sanderson - Sorenson

Richard A. Berg, division office engineer III, transferred to Helena to assume duties as specifications engineer, the office vacated by Ross Henry, recently retired. Dick has been with the department for 23 years and was one of the handiest men around the office. It was his wish that we not fuss over his leaving but cake was served at a coffee klatch in his honor, to bid him best wishes on his new venture. Gary J. Franklin, instrumentman, stepped into Dick's shoes as office engineer. Jim Trainor, rodman, was promoted to office engineer I, vacancy recently held by Rex Chamberlain.

Our sympathy is extended to Clyde Foster who flew to Washington, D.C. for the funeral of his father.

Congratulations to Dick Gustovich, proud papa of a baby boy and to James Ballard, likewise, a baby girl.

Havre

Edna Hess

Transfers to Havre division: Lee Phillips, engineering aide 2 from the Butte division at Dillon; and Kenneth Davis, rodman, from Kalispell.

Recent promotions: Thomas Hammerbacker to resident engineer 1; James Dolan to resident engineer 2; John Arnold to resident engineer 1; Dorrance Birkenbuel to resident engineer 1; Albert Bonner to resident engineer 2; and Hugh Klepzig to resident engineer 2. Harvey Embody was promoted to construction inspector and has transferred to the Helena construction division.

Transferring from Havre are: R. W. Freeman to Great Falls; Jack Hunt to Kalispell.

Stanley W. Newton, resident engineer, recently was awarded a 15-year pin and certificate.

John R. Brinkman, Jr., was the recipient of a 30-year pin and he retired on June 30th. He had served as maintenance supervisor in the Big Sandy section.

Xavier Shortell, maintenance VI, also retired recently after many years as mechanic in the Havre shop.

Missoula

Clara Neely

More than 100 personnel from the Missoula division participated in a steak fry near Lolo Hot Springs on June 29. Although the season had been a rainy one, the weatherman cooperated at that particular time. It was interesting to learn how talented our people really are. In addition to having the know-how for building and maintaining roads, many of them are true experts in the culinary field.

Congratulations are in order for Ralph Hill, who was married to Frances Gallwas on June 18. They are residing in St. Regis. Congratulations are in order also for Don Bowen and Dave Theriault on the births of their new daughters and

to Russ Thompson, who has a new granddaughter—his first.

Lois Baker has been doing a bit of sight seeing this summer. She attended the national seminar of the American R/W Association in Miami, Florida as a delegate of the Montana Big Sky Chapter, and as a national director. She and her husband have just returned from a two-week house-boat cruise which originated in Seattle. There were stops at Port Ludlow, Port Townsend, Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, and Ganges. A sea plane picked them up in Pender Harbor for the return trip to Seattle.

Sam and Virginia Thompson have returned from a 3-month trip abroad. They headquartered in Rome with son Steve, who is in the Air Force, and toured through Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, and other foreign countries. Sam tells us that many places were left unvisited because of a shortage of time.

Bozeman

Barbara McGuire

New employees in the Bozeman division on construction are: Jonnie Askin, Reece Burns, Kathy Crowe, Jim DeWolf, Bill Flint, Tom Garden, Bart Howells, Mike Langenfus, Tom Larson, Tim Lovely, Ted Luehr, Mike McClurg, John Reuter Dahl, Doug Ritter, Bruce Rost, Mike Ruben, Doug Swanson, Alan Towler, Mark Meloy. Harold Heath has come back to the Bozeman division from the Butte division.

New employees in the Bozeman division on maintenance are: Barry Curtis, Dan Duffy, Mark Goodell, Jay Groepper, Bruce Peterson, and Dave Taylor.

Doris Johnson, who resigned in March, brought her little girl Angela Gay down to the office for all of us to see, and she sure is a cutie. Angie was born on May 25th.

Bud Baker became a grandfather for the first time on May 3rd when Christopher Joseph McMahon weighed in at 7 lbs., 10 oz.

Arnold Palmer recently made a visit to the Big Sky project and Jack and Donati Gorman had a little toddy with him. Mr. Palmer told them that the Big Sky Golf Course is going to be the most beautiful in the world.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Louis Maaek took the 4-H Harrison Hawks group on a tour to Harlin for the Custer's Last Stand Re-enactment and to the Yellowtail Dam.

Our sympathy to Rich Saltzman on the death of his mother recently in California.

Service pins have been awarded to Bill Shuyler, Chuck Thomae, Jim Phelps and Dick McLees all for ten years service and Ed Wilson for 15 years service in small ceremonies held on the job and in the Bozeman office. Dennis Williams presented these men with their certificates and pins. Congratulations to you all.

Cake and ice cream was served in the Bozeman division office in honor of Kenneth Jones who was presented with his 40-year service pin and certificate by Dick Miller.

The Bozeman office celebrated Dick Miller's and Harold Roby's birthdays with cake and ice cream recently.

Elton Strunk moves to Wolf Point

Elton Strunk assumed his new duties as division construction engineer for the Wolf Point division on June 25th. Strunk began his career with the highway department in Stanford in 1933. During World War II he worked with a defense contractor and then returned to the highway as a rodman in Lewistown and advanced to resident engineer III.

Elton and his wife Esther are ardent outdoor people—they enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping. They have two children: Richard, who is with the army in Thailand; and Kathie, who is Mrs. Thomas Hartford.

Strunk is active in the Masonic Lodge, the Presbyterian Church and the Kiwanis Club.

What "rumble strips" mean to drivers

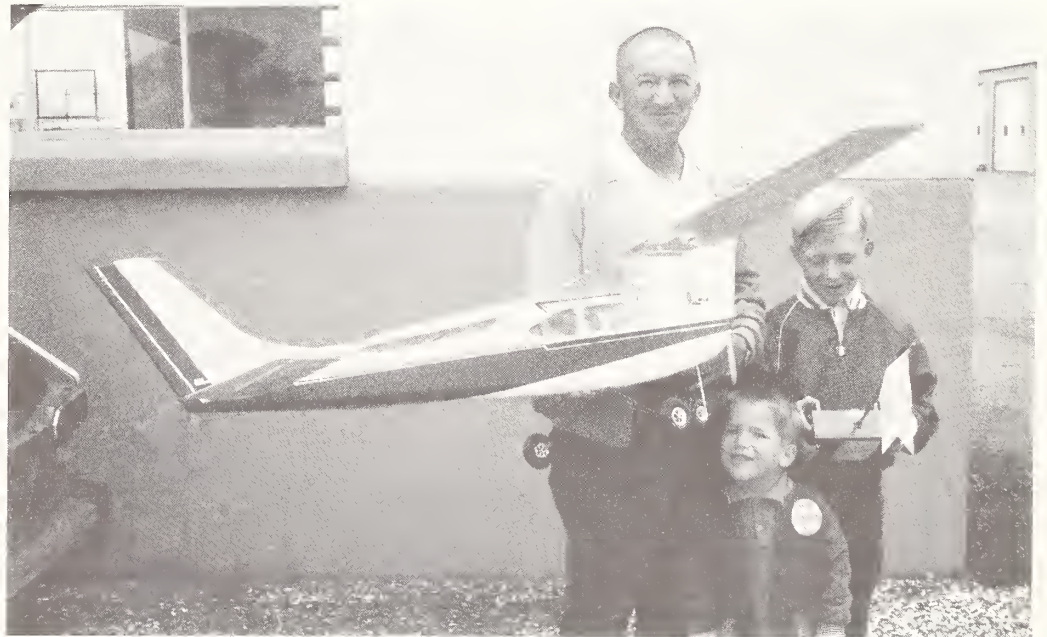
Highway researchers may have found a partial answer to the problem of keeping sleepy or inattentive drivers from straying out of traffic lanes

Billings

—James Young—

Billings hosted the 7th annual golf tourney August 14 and 15 at the Lake Hills Country Club. The entry fee for men was \$15.00—\$12.50 for the ladies. The committee members are: Dale Harcharik, Earl Brown and John Miner.

Dale Davis was elected President of Billings Union American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Others elected were: Dave Schuman, vice-president; John Leichner, secretary-treasurer. The executive committee members are: Mick Pertile, George Hein, J. Wilkins and Roddo Bakich.



Jim Rangitsch builds semi-scale model Cessna Skylane airplanes. Jim has flown the radio-controlled plane shown in the photograph over 20 times and reports only one rough landing. Pictured is Jim A., Sr. and sons Jim A., Jr., and Jeff A. Jim, Jr., is holding the radio.

Sharon Graham, Ribbon Girl at Billings Horse Show, was in charge of the Ribbon Girls for this year's sixteenth annual Midland Empire Horse Show. Four girls, including

Sharon, presented ribbons, trophies and purse money. This is the third year Sharon has participated in this phase of the show. Sharon has been given this responsibility because of her horsemanship ability and interest in the show. For the Seventeenth Annual Horse Show, Sharon will be in charge of ordering ribbons and trophies as well as presenting them. Congratulations, Sharon, for a job well done.

Red Brinkema's son Martin is pitching for the Billings Royals, American Legion Baseball Team. Martin pitches in non-conference games.

Service awards were presented to Gertrude E. Rykken, 15 years; Frank E. Bomar, 20 years; and Nor-

bert "Red" Brinkema, 25 years.

Bill R. Contreras and Peggy Dolven were married July 3, 1971.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Dunn are the parents of twins. Rick weighed in at 5 lbs. 3 oz. and Rachel 5 lbs. 11 oz.

Miss Sharon Farrell and James L. Thompson were married Saturday, July 24, in a double ring ceremony at the Methodist Church in Laurel, Montana. Sharon will become a homemaker after a short honeymoon.

and off the highway.

Engineers for the Illinois Division of Highways have designed and tested a concrete "safety shoulder" that acts in three ways to warn the drowsy motorist he is drifting into danger.

The warning is produced by corru-

gations molded into the concrete of the shoulder before it hardens.

The "rumble strip," which can be continuous or placed at regular intervals, warns the driver by sight, sound, and touch if his car moves to the shoulder.

Found – literary agent in Helena headquarters

Would you believe that we have a literary agent in the right-of-way division, Helena headquarters?

Joe Kintli, program coordinator, informed us of the upcoming publication of his father-in-law's autobiographical novel "MILE HIGH MILE DEEP". Joe's father-in-law is Richard K. O'Malley. The book deals with O'Malley's boyhood life in Butte, Montana.

Last September, Joe and his wife visited the O'Malley's in Frankfurt, Germany, where Dick O'Malley is now Associated Press bureau chief in charge of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and Bulgaria. During their visit they discussed the publication of O'Malley's manuscript. It was at this time that Joe suggested a Montana publisher for the book. This idea was met with enthusiasm by O'Malley and he appointed Joe as his literary agent.

After several months of contacts and negotiations, "MILE HIGH MILE DEEP" will be published by Mountain Press Publishing Company of Missoula in the fall.

Richard K. O'Malley is a native of Butte, attended the University of Montana and started his journalistic career with the **Missoulian**. During his pre-war years he was associated with the **Helena Independent**, the **Great Falls Leader** and the **Associated Press** in Helena. During World War II he was a war correspondent for the **Associated Press** and prior to his present assignment he was Chief of Bureau in Moscow, USSR., Cyprus, Denver, Colorado for the **Rocky Mountain** area and Paris, France.

McGiffin Retirement Party



Great Falls division office gals wish Bud McGiffin good-luck in his retirement. Left to right: Connie Patterson, Nancy Richardson, McGiffin, Ciel Tinelli, and Elaine Reeves.

Green Thumb crew starts project

The first Green Thumb crew to be employed by the Montana Highway Commission began work August 4th at the Helena Capitol interchange for a three-to-four week project. Dr. Bernie Jensen, environmentalist in the landscape design section, is in charge of the program.

The Green Thumb employs older and retired citizens in rural areas in

useful and rewarding jobs, including beautification and safety projects. It is sponsored by the National Farmers Union, operating under a grant by the U.S. Department of Labor. The wages, minimum scale, are 100 percent federally funded with the highway department furnishing equipment and supervision.

The crew will be gardening, weeding, pruning, planting and helping repair the sprinkling system at the Capitol Interchange.

Brussels in '72—anyone?

Joe Kintli and committee, Helena headquarters, are tentatively planning a second charter trip to Europe—Scandinavia and the British Isles—August 21 to September 11, 1972 for public employees. The fare is to be about \$272 round trip to Brussels.

Twenty-four hours from now — who?

The 1970 census will soon tell officially how many people there are in this country. Even without the census, certain facts are fairly well established about the country's population growth. For instance:

... Every 9 seconds someone is born in this country.

... Every 16½ seconds there is a death.

... Every 60 seconds an immigrant arrives.

... Every 23 minutes a citizen leaves to reside in another country.

The net result?

An addition to our population every 15½ seconds. This figure, extended, means four new citizens in just over a minute; over 232 per hour; and an increase of more than 5,575 every 24 hours.—Courtesy, March 1971 **Montana Citizen**.



We've kept this Polaroid print in our battered desk folio for quite a while and every time we've taken it out for another look-see, we've had a chuckle.

WITH THE DIVISIONS

Helena—Hdq.

Bev Gibson

Les Simkins, budget analyst, is the proud father of a girl born June 17.

Jean Tschirgi, communications, has resigned to be married. Her new hubby is Joe Geier. After their wedding in Sheridan, Wyo. they traveled to Nevada and California before returning home to Helena.

Charles Noland, Kelsch plotter room, is back working half days after several medical crises, including a gall bladder operation and cardiac arrest.

Bob Bovee of office engineers has been busy on committees organizing the East Helena fireworks display and rodeo.

Ernie Dorner, project control, is the new East Helena correspondent for the **Boulder Monitor**. She is having fun writing news for the paper, having studied some journalism in college.

Jim Adams, former EEO officer, stopped in to say hello. He was in Helena, partly on business, and to move his family to Denver.

Mary Gail Hanson is replacing Dorothy Bosse as secretary to Jack Wheeler, commission secretary. Dorothy has resigned for health reasons. Mary Gail was formerly in accounting.

Sheri Stephenson has joined Bob Champion's front office staff, in right of way. She formerly worked for John Poole, assistant chief r/w agent. Sheri reports her husband is making great headway in building their new home in Lump Gulch.

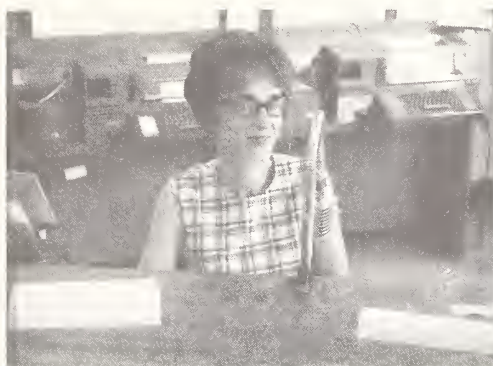
Leon Schneider, traffic, is building a house out in the Helena valley. He says it will be in livable condition around the first of September.

Kenny Morrison, surface design, reports that his son came home from Vietnam July 15 after a one-year tour of duty as a helicopter pilot. He will complete his service at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Margaret Ward, maintenance, spent a week at her cabin at Canyon Ferry Lake, enjoying the fishing. She had one brush with a bear which livened up the solitude.

Elizabeth Armitage, accounting, had a short vacation in Canada.

Perrie Cloud is our new gal in communications. She feels right at home with the teletype, having previously been employed at Western Union.



Perrie

Ellen Dennis and family are entertaining a Mexican exchange student for a month this summer, as part of a Lions International program. The 15-year-old young lady speaks very little English (yet) and the Dennis' don't know Spanish, but they are all getting along famously. They expect to show Cecelia all the typical Montana sights . . . camping, boating, horse races, parks, Brewery Theater, circus, horseback riding, etc.

Bob Dige, auditor I in the internal review section, resigned April 9th and was married in Great Falls June 20. Bob is now working for the FHWA as an internal auditor in Juneau, Alaska.

Secondary Roads Engineer Neil Sullivan and his wife were guests of the Montana Association of County Commissioners at their convention in Kalispell June 13-15.

The Sullivans recently had as guests their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Neil J. Sullivan of Haight Lakes, Minn. Much time was spent fishing on the Big Hole River near the Sullivan summer home at Wise River, and son showed father how to do it.

Karen Salo has returned for the summer to work in data processing. She is a student at MSU majoring in foreign languages and minoring in history with a teaching option.

Tom Younger, a five-year engineering program trainee, has completed one year at Notre Dame and three years at Carroll. He is working this summer in data processing. He expects to graduate next year with

a BA in math and a BS in electrical engineering.

Bob Crants, resident engineer, Billings, has moved to Helena, being transferred to the construction division here. He is presently working on the project staff for Roy L. Jorgensen Associates, while they conduct the personnel survey. His wife and three children have joined Bob here.

A news item in the Helena Independent Record noted that "the family that bivouacs together, stays together." They were discussing the Carol Lieberg family. Carol works in the right of way section. He and his two sons camped together at the annual field training exercises of the Montana Army National Guard held this year near Boise.

A float sponsored by Parents Without Partners won first place in the novelty division of the Stampede parade. The float depicted the "Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe," the shoe in this case a boot with spur. Twenty-two children rode the float and the "old woman" was Gayle Netzer, from motor pool division. Jim Grace, bridge, did a lot of work on building the float.

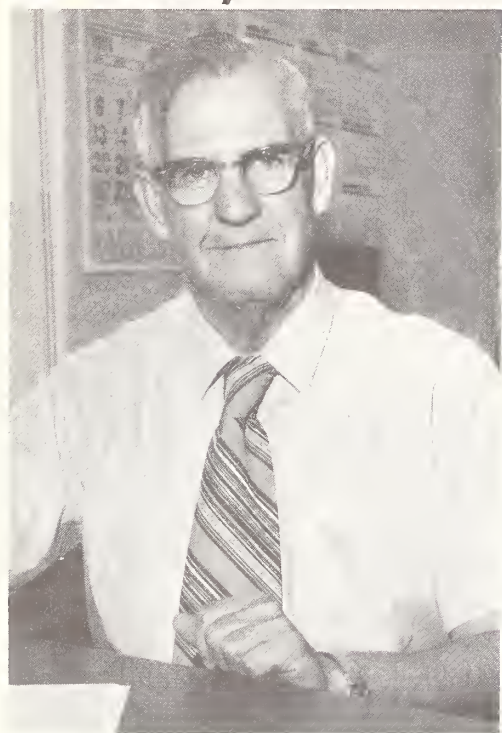
Bob Samson, consultant design section, has been named special assignments engineer in the Public Hearing section, assisting Don Anderson, public hearings director. Bob has been with the Highway Commission for 19 years. He is married and has one son, who teaches in Boulder. Bob is an archery enthusiast.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY WEEK

National Highway Week will be observed this year on September 19th through the 25th. The theme is to be: "ROADS AND STREETS — BACKBONE OF TOTAL TRANSPORTATION."

It is estimated that by 1990 there will be 158.6 million motor vehicles registered in the United States. This will represent an increase of about 50 per cent over today's auto registration.

Retirement party given Ross Henry



State Highway Commission Headquarters employees honored Ross Henry with a retirement dinner Wednesday evening, June 30th, marking his 38th year of employment with the Commission. Over 120 employees, friends and their spouses attended the affair at Jorgenson's Holiday Inn. The seven to nine-thirty dinner party (cocktails from 6 to 7 o'clock) was punctuated with reminiscences concerning events in the special assignments engineer's background, many of these items laced with a good-natured humor.

Robert E. Champion, head of the right of way department, acted as master of ceremonies. Grover O. Powers, preconstruction engineer, gave the benediction and, later on in the evening, added substantially to the anecdotes mined from the past years of Henry's varied highway engineering background. State Highway Engineer Lewis M. Chittim spoke briefly and remarks were continued by Assistant State Highway Engineer Jack Beckert; as well as by Dave Johnson and Steve Kologi (preconstruction); Lehman Fox (materials), Bonnie Borgmann (personnel), and Bucky Harris (project control).

Some members of Henry's family were able to attend, including his son Tom (Sergeant Tom Henry and wife, Linda) from California; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Garrity, Helena. Mrs. Garrity (Ellen) is Ross' daughter;

McGiffin retires; others promoted

Clinton A. "Bud" McGiffin, division construction engineer in Great Falls, retired June 30 after working for the Montana Highway Commission for 40 years. Richard W. Freeman, Jr., division construction engineer at Havre, was named to replace McGiffin, and Hazen D. Flickinger, Jr., assistant bridge engineer, Helena, moved to Havre as division construction engineer.

McGiffin is a Montana native. He joined the department in 1931 and his first jobs were chainman, gravel checker and rodman, in the Great Falls division. He was promoted to instrumentman and in 1947 he became a project engineer. In 1950 he was promoted to division maintenance engineer, and in 1957 to division construction engineer.

Freeman was born in Hattiesburg, Miss. and attended the Colorado School of Mines and Mississippi Southern College, graduating with a degree in engineering, geology and mathematics. He served in the U. S. Army for five years and was employed previously by the Bureau of Public Roads, Denver, and Alaska Highway Department in Juneau. He came to work with the Montana Highway Commission in 1955 as a project engineer in construction, located in Great Falls. In 1966 he was promoted to resident engineer. In 1967 he moved to the Havre construction division, became a registered land surveyor, and a Professional Engineer in 1968. He was then promoted to division construction engineer in 1969.

Flickinger is also a Montana native, having been born in Scobey, and attended schools in Opheim. His first assignment with the Montana Highway Commission was in 1952 as a chainman in the Wolf Point

and both Tom and his wife are Helena natives. Linda Henry is Buck Finley's daughter.

The employees presented Ross with a signed memorial retirement booklet; a gift check from the retirement coffee fund and a neatly wrapped gold miner's pan filled with employee contributions.

The theme of the dinner was engineered around Ross Henry's almost lifetime interest in mining and in gold-bearing ore.

St. Marks—new E.E.O. officer for MSHC

Peter J. St. Marks has assumed the position of Equal Employment Opportunity Officer for the Montana State Highway Commission, replacing James D. Adams who resigned.

St. Marks was born on the Rocky Boy Reservation, and is of Chippewa, Cree, Blackfeet and French descent. He attended El Camino College, Torrance, Calif., and took optical tooling courses at Space Technology Laboratories, Lawndale, Calif., tooling coordinating at Aero Neutronics for Philco Ford Copr., and tool making at General Dynamics. He has also worked on federal highway construction. Before coming to work for the highway department he was planning coordinator for EEO.

St. Marks and his wife, Caroline moved to Helena from Missoula. He is the father of seven children. His hobbies include cook-outs, barbecuing, and fishing. Caroline is an accomplished artist with beadwork.

St. Marks will travel throughout the state in his new position.

division, working later in Glendive and Great Falls divisions. He was promoted to rodman and instrumentman, then enrolled at Montana State University, Bozeman to obtain his degree in civil engineering, working for the department during his summer vacations. After obtaining his degree in 1964, Flickinger joined the department as an Engineer-in-Training, in Helena headquarters. In 1965 he was placed on permanent assignment in the bridge division as a designer 2, and in 1969 he was promoted to assistant bridge engineer.

